



Forest Area Community Schools

# Forest Area Focus

Serving the Communities of South Boardman and Fife Lake • March-April 2021 • Vol. 48, No. 3

## Notes From the Superintendent...

### Fife Lake Elementary Summer Renovations

The Forest Area Board of Education recently approved **two summer projects** at Fife Lake Elementary. The first will be a storage room renovation adjacent to the gymnasium. It will be completely remodeled and turned into an updated special education classroom. This will open up another area for future music and art classes. We are excited to have additional space for these classes.

Secondly, a new bus loop will be created in what is now the front area of the current playground. Beginning in the fall, buses will enter school property for drop off and pick up from Pierce St. Parent drop off and pick up will be moved to the front of the building. We are very excited about this project as it will eliminate the many traffic challenges each day during drop off and pick up.

Both projects are set to begin in early June and should be wrapped up prior to the start of the 2021-22 school year. More information can be found on our district website under the News heading.

Your Partner in Education,  
**Joshua T. Rothwell**

*Forest Area Community Schools Superintendent*



## Register for Kindergarten Round-Up!

**Kindergarten Round-Up is April 27 and 29!** Parents/guardians must schedule a round-up appointment in advance by calling Kathy at Fife Lake Elementary at **(231) 879-3362**. Children eligible for kindergarten in fall 2021 will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2021 to enroll. Waivers are also available for students turning 5 no later than December 1, 2021.

### Kindergarten Round-Up - April 27 and 29

Call Fife Lake Elementary at **(231) 879-3362** to schedule a round-up appointment (*required*) or for more information.

- Bring parent identification, certified birth certificate & immunization records

### Fife Lake Elementary School Thrives

- Average preK-third grade class size is 17
- Highly qualified teachers
- Supportive to many student education needs
- Physical education, art & music
- FREE breakfast & lunch for all

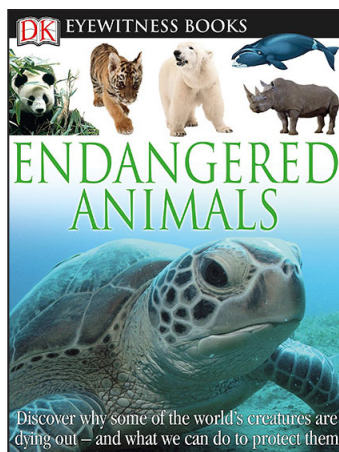
## As Seen on TV!

TV 9&10 News featured Forest Area's very own sugar shack on a recent news story. The crew stopped by to interview SEEDS coordinator Joe Kreider to tell the story of the successful fundraising that allowed the historic building to be brought back to life and get FACS students back to learning about the science of maple sugaring.



## March is Reading Month

All FACS students from preschool to 12th grade are getting in on March is Reading Month activities. The theme for the month is *endangered animals and their habitats* and our goal is to get students reading and to have fun doing it. Here are some examples of the learning fun we have planned throughout the school:



- Decorate classroom doors
- Live virtual safari
- Drop Everything and Read
- Pit Spitters Book Club
- Battle of the Books

Plus, Friday dress-up days include themes such as:

- March 5 - Mismatch Day
- March 12 - Safari Day
- March 19 - Book Character Day
- March 26 - PJ Day

## 2020-2021 FACS Calendar

March 17.....	Late Start Wednesday
March 26.....	End of Third Quarter
March 29-April 2.....	Spring Break
April 5.....	School Resumes
April 21.....	Late Start Wednesday
April 23.....	Half Day
May 12.....	Late Start Wednesday
May 31.....	Memorial Day - No School
June 10-11.....	Half Day - End of 2nd Semester

Calendar Subject to Change

## Late Start Wednesdays

Forest Area Community Schools has scheduled the following late start Wednesdays for the 2020-21 school year to allow teachers extra work sessions focusing on student achievement and enhanced teacher effectiveness.

Students report to school one hour later than regular school days. If your child needs to arrive at the regular start time on these Wednesdays, support staff will be available to supervise. Busses will run one hour later than regular schedule, and school breakfast will be served at 8:45 a.m.

### 2nd Semester

March 17  
April 21  
May 12

## FACS Board of Education

The Board of Education meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the high school band room or via teleconference as needed. Special meeting dates/times/places as published.

### Board of Education:

Steve Kniss, President  
Chrissy Ingersoll, Vice President  
Jody Perkins, Treasurer  
Christie McLeod, Secretary  
Dan Smith, Trustee  
Joanna Durfee, Trustee  
Jill Snyder, Trustee

### Meeting Dates:

March 8, 2021  
April 12, 2021  
May 10, 2021  
June 21, 2021

## 2020-2021 School Meal Information

### Breakfast

**FREE for ALL students.**  
Served in FACS classrooms

### Lunch

**FREE for ALL students.**  
Lunch price for adults is \$4.00.  
Milk is \$0.35 without a lunch.  
No charging allowed.

**Food Allergies** - If a student has food allergies, a Medical Statement Form must be completed by a physician so the child's needs can be accommodated. Forms are available at [forestarea.org](http://forestarea.org) on the food service page.

**Lunch Menus** - Visit [forestarea.org](http://forestarea.org) for monthly lunch menus. You may also download the FREE app, Nutrislice to see menus and nutritional information.

**Meal Pick-Up** - Available to students enrolled in the Forest Area Virtual Academy. Contact school for more information.

**Questions?** Contact Director of Food Service Shelly Ritchie at 369-4191.

**Nondiscrimination Statement:** In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by mail to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; by fax to (202) 690-7442; or by email to [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Contact Us

**District Office** • Ph 369-4191 • Fax 369-4153

Email [jrothwell@forestarea.org](mailto:jrothwell@forestarea.org)

**Middle/High School** • Ph 369-2884 or 369-3011 • Fax 369-3646

**Fife Lake Elementary** • Ph 879-3362 • Fax 879-4825

**Website** • [www.forestarea.org](http://www.forestarea.org)



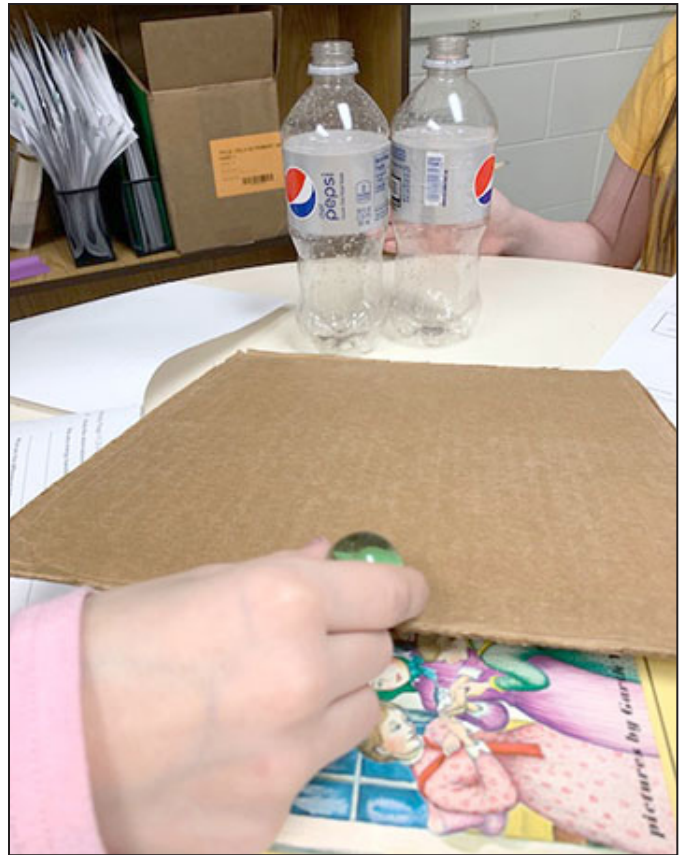


## Spelling Bee 2021

Congratulations to all the spellers in fifth through eighth grades who competed in the FACS Spelling Bee! After many rounds of competition, Kelson Schultz emerged as school champion, and Gaige Cummer was the runner-up. All of the spellers did an excellent job preparing and competing and we are proud of their efforts.

The next phase of competition involves competing for a spot at the Grand Traverse Regional Bee by taking an online test for a chance to represent the Grand Traverse region in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. Best of luck to Kelson and Gaige!

*You may remember three years ago when FACS student Autumn Reeves (now a 9th grader) won a spot to compete in Washington.*



## Energy Movers

Mrs. Verhage's fourth graders are learning about energy in science class. Pictured above, students conducted an investigation into the connection between the energy and the speed of an object. They used common materials to construct ramps and used marbles and toy cars to knock down plastic cups and bottles.



## First Grade Astronomy Scholars

First grade students are learning about the sun, moon, stars, and earth in their reading program, CKLA. They take what they learn in the classroom and find ways to relate that info to the world around them. Pictured above, left is Garrison Bassett using a telescope to observe the moon that can sometimes be seen in the morning. Student Gage Buchler spotted the Orion constellation one evening and captured a photo (above, center) to share with the class. Mia Peters gave her teacher a lesson on how shadows are formed during recess (above, right).





## Community Service + Fitness

Students from the Strength and Conditioning class pitched in to help others in the community by shoveling snow. Hats off to these students for finding ways to get healthy exercise while also taking care of neighbors.

## Free After School Enrichment

SEEDS provides no-cost after school and summer enrichment programs to Forest Area students in kindergarten through 8th grade. During the school year, the program operates at the middle school *and* elementary buildings, after school until 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Activities include homework help, dinner, enrichment activities, and field trips.





# FREE PRESCHOOL

AT FIFE LAKE ELEMENTARY

**GSRP Preschool for students who turned 4 on or before September 1.**

Highly qualified teachers

Focus on kindergarten readiness

Transportation is available

**For more information contact**  
**Michele Knight at (231) 879-3362 ext 311**  
**or e-mail at [MKnight@forestarea.org](mailto:MKnight@forestarea.org)**

Must be 4 years old by September 1. Early enrollment slots may become available for those who turn 4 by December 1.



## GSRP Preschool for 2021-22 Apply Now!

Families may *apply now* for Forest Area's FREE Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) preschool! The program is celebrating its recent rating as a 5-Star Preschool by Great Start and Michigan Department of Education. Contact Michele Knight at (231) 879-3362 for more information.

Children in GSRP must be four years old on or before September 1, 2021. Families must meet income eligibility and/or risk factors for the free program. Families with income *above* GSRP guidelines may still qualify for the program and be asked to pay tuition based on a sliding scale.



**Certifies that**

**Forest Area Preschool**

**is quality-rated and working to continuously improve with Great Start to Quality**

**Valid until 2/4/2023**



  
Dr. Scott M. Koenigsnecht  
Office of Great Start

  
Kelly Kreider  
Early Childhood Investment Corporation



Federal funds administered by the Office of Great Start within the Michigan Department of Education support the implementation of Great Start.

# March - May 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>MARCH</b> 8 Board of Education Mtg, 6:30 p.m.	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17 Late Start	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26 End of Third Quarter	27
29	30	31	<b>APRIL</b> 1	2	3
No School - Spring Break					
5 School Resumes	6	7	8	9	10
12 Board of Education Mtg, 6:30 p.m.	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21 Late Start	22	23 Half Day	24
26	27	28	29	30	<b>MAY</b> 1
3	4	5	6	7	8
10 Board of Education Mtg, 6:30 p.m.	11	12 Late Start	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22

Dates and times subject to change



## WARRIORS

### School Day Start/End Times

**Fife Lake Elementary**

Start Time 8:00 a.m.

End Time 3:00 p.m.

1/2 Day 8:00-11:45 a.m.

**Forest Area**

**Middle/High School**

Start Time 8:25 a.m.

End Time 3:15 p.m.

1/2 Day 8:25 a.m.-12:05 p.m.

### Visit Websites

[forestarea.org](http://forestarea.org)

Lunch Menus

School Calendar

Staff Directory

and more!

[forestareawarriors.com](http://forestareawarriors.com)

Sports Schedules

Event Results

Photos

and more!

**Forest Area Focus** is provided periodically during the school year and on our website (<http://www.forestarea.org>) for residents of the Forest Area Community Schools District. Staff, students and community members write the articles. Newsletter editing and layout is provided by the Communications Department, Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District (TBAISD). Printing for the newsletter is provided by Forest Area Community Schools. Questions about the newsletter should be directed to the Superintendent at (231) 369-4191.

#### Administration:

Josh Rothwell,  
Superintendent &  
Elementary Principal

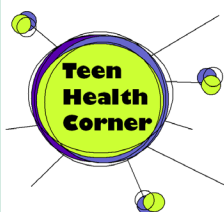
Kelly Holeman,  
Middle & High School  
Principal



Forest Area Community Schools  
7741 Shippy Road SW  
Fife Lake, MI 49633

Nonprofit  
U.S. Postage  
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ECRWSS  
Fife Lake, MI  
Permit No. 2

## Postal Patron



### Teen Health Corner

Teen Health Corner clinics provide many services, including illness and injury care, Covid-19 testing, immunizations, physicals,

concussion evaluations, health education, mental health, and referrals for specialty care. Counseling services, in-person or virtual are also available with our friendly, licensed professional counselors. We share a common goal with the school to promote the best outcomes for kids.

- Convenient scheduling
- In-person, car or virtual visits
- Immunizations for preschool or kindergarten
- Open ALL YEAR including spring break & summer
- Walk-in appointments
- All insurances accepted, sliding scale based on income if no insurance
- On-site Medicaid application assistance
- Two locations: Kalkaska and Forest Area

**Call Teen Health Corner  
with your health care needs**  
**Forest Area 369-2000**  
**Kalkaska 258-7791**

### Students of the Month

Two middle and high school students are chosen each month for their citizenship, academic achievement, work ethic, and positive contributions to the school.

#### High School Students of the Month

**Olivia Dake** inspires and influences with her work ethic and drive to succeed.

Mrs. Kovalcsik said she “is caring and genuinely sympathetic.”

**Lane Lindsay** is a terrific mentor to younger students, Mr. Fouch describes him as “one of the most trusted and hard working students.”



*Dake*

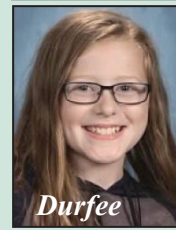


*Lindsay*

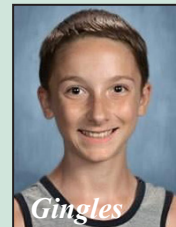
#### Middle School Students of the Month

**Leah Durfee** is a hard worker. Mrs. Butts stated “she has a quick wit and pleasant demeanor and is successful as a student and as a citizen.”

**Cameron Gingles** has shown excellent effort and great participation. Mr. VanLandschoot commends him for his kindness and politeness, and for demonstrating great maturity in taking responsibility for his school work.



*Durfee*



*Gingles*